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Reviews.

Glimpses of Home Life; or, Causes and Consequences. By Mrs. Emma C. Embury. 1 vol. 12mo., pp. 324. J. C. Riker, New York.

The Waldorf Family; or, Grandfather's Tales. By Mrs. Emma C. Embury. 1 vol., pp. 223. Same publishers.

ALTHOUGH earlier known as a poet than a prose writer, the manifold tales, sketches, and essays of Mrs. Embury have been for many years noiselessly impressing the public mind, until her name, like that of Miss Sedgwick, has become almost a household word with the lovers of a pure and healthy imaginative literature, which deals chiefly with the domestic affections.

Why, with all her successful experience, Mrs. Embury has not yet tried her hand upon a two-volume novel, we really cannot understand; except upon the supposition that she believes these novelettes of wider influence, from being more easy of distribution. The tale or novelette has not yet in this country been visited with the condemnation which some pious people bestow upon the novel; and the writer who would teach truth through parables, therefore, perhaps acts wisely in using the best accepted medium for reaching the public mind.

The two works of fiction named at the head of the article, in lively contrast to each other, both in choice of subject and mode of handling, strikingly illustrate the versatile power of the author.

"I have always thought (says Mrs. Embury in her excellent preface to the latter volume) that an attractive fairy tale, so thoroughly pervaded by a fine moral truth that the youthful mind cannot but imbibe its influence, is of far more effective benefit than an overstrained moral tale, whose improbable incidents and exaggerated ideas of excellence tend to give false views of life and its duties." "I don't like books that pretend to be true; give me either histories or fairy tales," was the characteristic remark of a bright-minded and ingenuous child. The remark is pregnant with wholesome suggestiveness for those who write for the young; to whom nature gives an eager fancy as an ingress of wisdom, while their sensibilities are most freshly alive to the beauty of untainted truth.

The assertion may seem a whimsical one, but thus it is, too, with those child-men, poets, and savages. None so pedantically tenacious of a matter-of-fact as your poet when he deals with one; while our red Indians, delighting to revel in the wildest legends of superstitious improbability, have put their tribesmen to death as "great liars," when some unlucky delegate to the Indian Department at Washington has, upon returning to his people, related to them

his incredible experiences among the whites as truth. Like the child referred to by Mrs. Embury, they loved the fable that imaged truth to their fancies and their souls, but they rejected and punished the tale which seemed an intentional mockery of truth.

Now, the Grandfather's Legends here presented in this illustrated Christmas volume for young folks, will go right to their fresh hearts, unless we are much mistaken. But our family readers may easily try the experiment for themselves, by handing over the following story to those of their circle, for whose special satisfaction and edification, we extract it here:—

THE THREE GIFTS.

"Once upon a time, there lived, in the province of Léon, in Lower Brittany, a widow, who had two sons, each as beautiful as the sunshine, and as rich as they could desire. Though Mylio, the eldest, was but sixteen, Tonyk was two years younger. They had studied so hard, that there was scarcely anything more for them to learn at home; and their mother, therefore, resolved to send them to their uncle, who lived in a distant province, in order that they might see the world, as well as secure a portion of their uncle's inheritance before he died. Accordingly, one day she furnished each of them with a new hat, a pair of shoes with silver buckles, a purple cloth cloak, a purse full of money, and a horse; and then giving them her blessing, sent them off to seek their uncle.

"The brothers were so wonderfully alike in person, that it was difficult to distinguish one from the other by sight; but they differed greatly from each other in character. Tonyk was pious and charitable; always ready to help the poor, and as forgiving as he was affectionate. He could no more keep money in his hand, than he could anger in his heart. Mylio, on the contrary, never gave anybody more than their just due, and, indeed, seldom did that without grumbling and chaffering. If any one offended him, he was sure to be revenged if he could, and he was as selfish as he was miserly and vindictive. But these differences had not yet shown themselves so strongly as to put the brothers at variance; and they set out upon their journey in fine spirits, delighted, as young folks always are, at the thought of seeing strange countries.

"The horses their mother had given them were so swift, that in a very few days they found themselves entering upon a region which produced trees quite unknown to them, and grain such as they had never before seen. As they turned into a by-road, they saw an old woman sitting under one of those rude crosses which are so frequent in Brittany. She sat with her apron over her face, rocking herself backwards and forwards, and sobbing as if her heart would break. Tonyk stopped his horse to inquire into the cause of her distress, and when she told him she had just buried her only son, who had been the support of her old age, the tears stood in Tonyk's eyes. But Mylio, who was waiting a few paces off, cried out, in derision:

"Don't be fool enough to listen to the first whiner you meet; the old woman only wants to cry purses out of the pockets of travellers."

"Hush, brother," answered Tonyk; "your cruel words make her weep more bitterly. Don't you see she is old and grey, like our dear mother?" Then leaning over his horse's neck,

and holding out his purse, he continued: "Take this, my good woman; I can do nothing except to relieve your wants. God only can console you in your affliction."

"The woman took the purse, with a thousand thanks, and as she pressed her withered lips to the young man's hand, she said:

"My good youth, since you have enriched me now for life, you will not certainly refuse to receive a gift from me in return. Within this walnut is a wasp with a diamond sting. Take it, and keep it against the time of need."

"Tonyk took the nut, and thanking the old woman, as a gentleman should, went on his way.

"The travellers soon arrived on the borders of a forest, where they saw a half-naked child, digging into the hollow trees, and moaning a melancholy song, that sounded more sad than a funeral hymn. Sometimes he would pause in his work, and rub his poor little frozen hands together, while the loud chattering of his teeth almost prevented them from hearing the mournful words he was chanting:

"The cow has her stall, and the sheep has his fold,
But for me there's no shelter. I'm cold, oh! I'm cold."

"Tonyk was ready to cry at the sight of so much suffering at so tender an age, and he said to his brother:

"Oh, Mylio, is it not terrible to see how that poor child is suffering from this driving wind?"

"He must be very tender, then," answered Mylio: "for my part, I don't find it so very cold."

"Because you are protected by a good frieze jacket, and over that a cloth coat, and over that again your purple cloak; but the boy is almost naked."

"Oh, he is used to it: he is only a poor peasant."

"I can't bear to see him shiver," said Tonyk. So, calling the little fellow to him, he asked what he was doing in the woods.

"I am seeking for the beautiful dragon-flies, which sleep in the hollow trees," answered the boy.

"And what do you mean to do with them, when you get them?" asked Tonyk.

"When I get enough, I will sell them in the village, and buy a coat to keep me warm when the sun does not shine."

"How many have you already found?"

"Only one," said the child, holding up, as he spoke, a little wicker-cage, in which was imprisoned a beautiful insect with wings of blue and gold.

"Very well; I will buy that one," said Tonyk, throwing his fine purple cloak round the trembling boy. "Wrap your frozen limbs in this warm cloth; and when you say your prayers to-night, thank Heaven for having sent us to your aid."

"The brothers continued their journey; and though Tonyk at first felt the want of his cloak, as he rode in the face of a biting north-easter, yet scarcely had they emerged from the forest, when the wind fell, the mist cleared away, and the sun began to break through the heavy clouds. They soon arrived at a more open country; and as they entered a green valley, through which murmured a pleasant stream, they saw, by the water's edge, an old man, clad in miserable tatters, and bearing on his shoulder a beggar's wallet. As soon as he saw the travellers, he began to implore their assistance.

"What can we do for you, father?" asked Tonyk, taking off his hat as he spoke, out of respect to the old man's years.

"Alas! my dear little gentleman," said the beggar, "you see my grey hairs and wrinkled cheeks; I am so old that my legs will no longer carry me, and I must die in this place, unless one of you will sell me your horse."

"Sell our horses to an old bone-picker like you?" exclaimed Mylio. "I would like to see what you can offer for them."

"Do you see this hollow acorn?" answered the old man. "It contains a spider, which spins a web stronger than steel. Let me take one of your horses, and I will give you in exchange the spider and the acorn."

"Mylio burst into a loud laugh. 'Do you hear that, Tonyk?' said he; 'did you ever know such a fool? I will wager my silver buckles, that you might find a pair of ass's heels in that old fellow's wooden shoes, if you were to pull them off.'"

"The poor man can offer no more than he has," replied Tonyk, softly. Then alighting from his horse, and advancing towards the old beggar, he said:

"I will give you my horse, my good man, not for the price you offer, but for charity's sake. Look upon him as your own, and thank heaven, who has sent us to your assistance."

"The old man uttered a thousand benedictions, and mounting the horse with the youth's assistance, galloped off into the woods. Mylio, who had been more and more incensed at each of Tonyk's gifts, now no longer attempted to conceal his indignation.

"Idiot!" he exclaimed, "you have reduced yourself to a pretty condition by your folly. I dare say, you fancied that after you had stripped yourself of everything, I would share with you my gold, and my cloak, and my horse; but you will find yourself mistaken. I hope the lesson will do you good, and teach you more economy in future."

"I am willing to learn from all good lessons, brother," said Tonyk, mildly. "I have no idea of sharing your goods; so go your way, and be not disturbed about me: I will follow you."

"Mylio made no reply; but urging his horse into a trot, was soon far in advance of Tonyk, who followed him at a distance.

"Not a great way from thence was a narrow passage, between two high mountains whose heads were hidden in the clouds. This path was called the Pass of Peril, because of a terrible ogre, who dwelt on the top of the highest mountain, and lay in wait there for travellers, just as a sportsman would watch for game. He was a monstrous giant, without any legs, and stone-blind; but his ears were so fine, that he could hear the worms creeping in the earth. He was attended by two eagles whom he had tamed, and he always sent them out after the prey whose approach he heard. Therefore the people of the country were accustomed to traverse this pass with their shoes in their hands, scarcely daring to breathe, for fear of being seized by the terrible ogre. Mylio, however, who knew nothing of all this, trotted briskly into the narrow pass. But the tramp of his horse's feet woke the giant out of his afternoon's nap, and he called out, 'Hollos! where are my greyhounds? Up, sluggards, and bring in that noisy fellow for my supper.' The white and the red eagles instantly flew off, like two bullets out of a rifle. They plunged into the ravine, seized Mylio by his purple cloak, and carried him into the giant's house.

"Tonyk arrived at the entrance of the Pass of Peril, at the moment when the eagles had seized their prey. He saw his brother struggling in their talons, and uttering a loud cry, he rushed forward to his rescue. But long ere he could reach them, they were hidden among the clouds and darkness of that lofty mountain-top.

"I would move heaven and earth to save my brother," exclaimed the affectionate Tonyk, throwing himself upon the ground in despair.

"That would be making a great commotion

for a very small matter," said a tiny little voice, apparently close beside him.

"Who speaks? where are you?" exclaimed the startled youth.

"We are in your coat-pocket," answered the voice.

"Tonyk thrust his hand in his pocket, and drew out the walnut, the acorn, and the wicker-cage, in which were enclosed the three insects.

"Who will rescue Mylio?" asked Tonyk.

"We!—We!—We!" answered three droning voices, in as many different tones.

"What can you do, my poor little nobodies?" said the youth, sadly.

"Open our prisons, and you shall see."

"Tonyk did as he was desired; and no sooner had he opened the acorn, than there issued from it a jet-black spider, whose body was studded with rubies, and who instantly commenced fastening to a tree a thread as brilliant and as strong as the finest tempered steel wire. Then came forward the dragon-fly, and taking the spider on his back, he rose slowly through the air, swaying himself backwards and forwards in such a manner as to enable the spider to weave a step-ladder long enough to reach the skies. Tonyk, setting the wasp on the crown of his hat, began to ascend the ladder, and, though it almost took his breath away to mount up so high in the clouds, he at last reached the top of the mountain. Here the wasp, flying before him, guided him to the giant's abode, which was a great cave, as big as a church, scooped out of the solid rock. Here, in the centre of the cavern, sat the old ogre. On the ground lay Mylio, with his arms and legs pinioned against his back, like a chicken just ready for the spit; while the giant, as he leaned over him, seemed to balance his body like the trunk of an enormous poplar swayed by the north wind. He was in high good humor, for Mylio had always been under the care of a good mother, and of course his flesh was firm, and his skin white, as if he had always fed on the fat of the land. The ogre busied himself in cutting strips of pork, with which to lard his fine goose, and as he did so, he sang a sort of gigantic bacchanalian song, in tones that seemed to shake the mountain. The noise made by his own voice, and the deep attention he was bestowing upon the delicate morsels which were soon to be inserted into Mylio's soft skin, prevented him from hearing the approach of Tonyk and his three little assistants. The eagles were both in the chimney, where one was employed in stirring the fire, while the other was winding up the turnspit. The red eagle, however, spied Tonyk, and was darting towards him with extended talons, when the wasp thrust his diamond stinging into both his eyes. The white eagle flew to the assistance of his comrade, but met with the same fate, and with a shriek of pain, they retreated to their corner. The old ogre, raising himself up when he heard the cries of his attendants, turned towards them, and received the attack of the wasp full in the face. He roared like a wild bull, and flung his arms around like the sails of a great windmill, but his blindness prevented him from seizing the wasp, and the want of legs prevented him from running away from his unmerciful attacks. At length, half mad with pain, he threw himself on his face to the ground. No sooner was he there, than the spider hastened to weave around him a web so strong that he could not stir a finger, but lay like a dead tree in the forest. In vain he called upon his eagles to help him. The pain they were suffering from their blinded eyes made them quite savage, and knowing that the ogre's power was at an end for ever, they determined to avenge themselves for their former slavery. So they flew at him, beat him with their great wings, struck him with their sharp talons, and tore out such great pieces of his flesh with their beaks, that there was soon nothing left of him but the bare bones rattling in the spider's steel web. But scarcely had they gorged themselves with their horrid meal, when they found they had been indulging in rather indigestible food;

for their bodies swelled to the size of oxen, and they died in great torment.

"As for Tonyk, he was overjoyed to see his brother yet undevoured; so, cutting asunder his bonds, he led him out of that frightful cavern. On the edge of the precipice, he found the wasp and the dragon-fly harnessed to the wicker-cage, which was now transformed into a magnificent chariot. They politely requested the brothers to set themselves in the new vehicle, and the spider mounted behind like a liveried footman. In this manner, they flew along like the wind, and accomplished the rest of their journey without meeting any new adventures. The high roads of the air are usually kept in pretty good order; so they traversed mountains and plains, hills and valleys, towns and villages with great rapidity, and soon found themselves near their uncle's chateau. The carriage then descended towards the earth, and the travellers, alighting from it, were agreeably surprised to find their own horses waiting for them on the drawbridge. At Tonyk's saddle-bow, there hung his purse and his purple cloak; but the purse was now ten times as large and full as it had been, and his cloak was embroidered with diamonds and pearls.

"The young men turned towards the carriage to inquire the meaning of all this, but the wasp, the dragon-fly, and the spider had all disappeared. In their stead they beheld three fairies, as beautiful as a May morning, and not more than three inches in height. Mounting on the top of a hawthorn bush, which brought them nearly on a level with the youths, the ladies began to explain matters; but as they all talked at once, and each exerted her voice to the utmost, it was at first impossible to distinguish a word. By dint of persuasion and extreme courtesy, Tonyk finally induced them to speak in turn. He then learned that the old woman, the frozen child, and the beggar, were only disguises assumed by the three fairies to test the virtue of the young travellers. Tonyk had stood the trial so well, that besides receiving the reward originally designed for his charity, he was allowed to rescue his selfish brother from the fate he so richly deserved;—for to a generous nature, the greatest of all pleasures is to do good to others. Tonyk thanked the ladies for their interest in his welfare, and promised better things in behalf of Mylio, who stood with downcast eyes and sheepish air, listening to the enumeration of his brother's virtues and his own demerits. Whether he ever really reformed is doubtful; for the selfish man has his idol always so close to him, that he can scarcely ever put aside his idolatry."

These fairy tales of Brittany, it may well be imagined, lose nothing in passing from the original through the alembic of Mrs. Embury's fancy into an English version. A mere literal translation would have been desirable in a scholastic work of mythology—to be consigned to the library shelves of the curious. The poet's task here was to distil "milk for babes" from the gnarled and knotty trunk of the tree of knowledge; and this new fairy book will probably take its place hereafter among the choicer favorites of old and accepted nursery tale.

"Home Glimpses," an entirely original work, is written, as we have intimated, in an entirely different vein. In this Mrs. Embury deals with the purely practical; the imaginative part being the conception of scenes and characters of real life. In passing from one tale to another (of which our readers have already had full specimens while the sheets were passing through the press), we could not but think of the exhausting labor of invention in weaving so many light narratives, any of which, when its framework was once adjusted, might be easily expanded into a couple of volumes; and the desire again returns that a gifted writer of such acknowledged ability should give full play to her powers in a novel

of American society. Our magazines are full of stories of so-called fashionable life, often written by some country recluse of either sex, who knows nothing of the city life which he or she attempts to describe; and it is time that the lights and shades of American society, so rich in varied peculiarity, should be mirrored to the life by those who have alike the ability and the opportunity to catch the living manners as they rise. It is often said that the ceaseless transition state of American society offers no chance of daguerreotyping a true portrait; that the features change too rapidly to permit the artist to arrest their expression. For the common artist, this is, indeed, true; but the wizard touch of genius finds its true test in giving permanence to the evanescent, and evoking the spell of consistency and continuity from that which the common hand fails to grasp, and which, to the common eye, is but shifting and cloud-like confusion. Of the Decameron of tales which the prolific pen of Mrs. Embury has lavished upon the magazines, we presume a dozen popular volumes could be made; and we are strongly disposed to regard her fastidiousness in bringing together but a handful of them in the volume before us as an earnest that she is engaged upon some continuous work like that we have hinted at, and which the admirers of her writings cannot but expect at her hands, after these "Glimpses of Home Life," so calculated to whet expectation for "a bird's eye view" of the same rich and varied field. Her earlier writings, however, as we remember them, were all of a romantic cast, showing great familiarity with the literature of old France, of Germany, and of Italy. *The on reviens toujours* is at least as applicable to literature as to love, and we shall therefore be perfectly willing to let off so favorite a writer, if she thinks that within the last ten years she has done her full devoir in the field of moral and domestic literature, and permits her matured imagination to revel once more amid the themes in which the young authoress of "Guido" won her earliest wreath as the impassioned "Ianthé"—now so rarely identified with the maternally promotor of what is most practically conservative in light literature. Fresh from her studies in Breton story, *A Romance of Brittany* were an easy and delightful task to Mrs. Embury's pen.

School Architecture; or, Contributions to the Improvement of School-Houses in the United States. By Henry Barnard, Commissioner of Public Schools in Rhode Island. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co. Cincinnati: H. W. Derby & Co. Royal 12mo. Pp. 233. 1848.

UNINVITING as the title of this book may appear to the casual reader, who may perhaps be disposed to throw it aside as better suited to a school committee or an architect, than the public at large, we can assure him that it contains information which deserves the serious consideration of all who are interested in the cause of education; that it ought to be in the hands of every parent and teacher throughout the land, that their eyes may be opened to the imperative necessity of providing fit accommodations for the tender frames of the young as well as suitable aliment for the mind. Even with the evidence before us, resting on testimony that cannot be impeached, we can hardly credit the culpable neglect which has till of late years been exhibited in all sections of the Union on this vitally important point. And though in some States great improvements

have been made, and are now in progress, yet there is too much reason to believe that in others the public mind is still in a state of apathy, and that a thorough investigation would bring to light as flagrant examples of neglect as any recorded in the Introduction to this volume, which consists of extracts from official reports made to the Legislatures of several States, describing "school-houses as they are;" and in many instances these are the painful records of a total disregard of the first principles of decency, comfort, and health. All other classes of public buildings have participated in the march of improvement; but school-houses, which might be expected to set the example, are almost hopelessly behind. Let us take the case of Massachusetts, which appears to be pursuing the cause of reform with an earnestness and vigor that form a remarkable contrast with the long prevailing neglect, and read in the Report of the Hon. Horace Mann, Secretary of the Board of Education, which was presented in 1846, his remarks on the condition of the school-houses at no very distant date.

"Industry and the increasing pecuniary ability which it creates, had given comfort, neatness, and even elegance, to private dwellings. Public spirit had erected commodious and costly churches. Counties, though largely taxed, had yet uncomplainingly paid for handsome and spacious court houses and public offices. Humanity had been at work, and had made generous and noble provision for the pauper, the blind, the deaf and dumb, the insane. Even jails and houses of correction,—the receptacles of felons and other offenders against the laws of God and man, had in many instances been transformed, by the more enlightened spirit of the age, into comfortable and healthful residences. The Genius of architecture, as if she had made adequate provision for all mankind, extended her sheltering care over the brute creation. Better stables were provided for cattle, better folds for sheep, and even the unclean beasts felt the improving hand of reform. But in the meantime the school-houses, to which the children should have been wooed by every attraction, were suffered to go where age and the elements would carry them."

And he goes on to remark that:—

"In 1837 not one-third part of the public school-houses in Massachusetts would have been considered tenantable by any decent family out of the poor-house, or in it. As an incentive to neatness and decency, children were sent to a house whose walls and floors were indeed painted, but they were painted all too thickly by smoke and filth; whose benches and doors were covered with carved work, but they were the gross and obscene carvings of impure hands; whose vestibule, after the oriental fashion, was converted into a veranda, but the metamorphosis which changed its architectural style, consisted in laying it bare of its outer covering."

And so on till everything that can offend the senses, deprave the mind, and ruin the health has been enumerated; and we are assured that notwithstanding the reforms which have since been effected, the correctness of his statements can be verified by "inspecting some of the few specimens of them which still remain."

But let us look on the other side of the picture, and before dismissing Mr. Mann's report it will be instructive to read on how trivial a circumstance hinged the fate of the earliest effort at reform in Massachusetts. The thought of taxation was enough to rouse a fierce and powerful opposition, and the efforts of the reformers were in no little danger of defeat; but fortunately those who were invulnerable to all appeals to sense and reason, could not withstand the evidence of all their senses combin-

ed, and the school-houses themselves quietly but effectually enforced the arguments of the enlightened minority.

"The school districts were the scene where the contending parties arrayed themselves against each other; the school-house itself their arena. From time immemorial it had been the custom to hold school district meetings in the school-house. Hither, according to ancient usage, the voters were summoned to come. In this forum, the question was to be decided, whether a new edifice should be erected, or whether the ability of the old one to stand upon its foundations for another season, should be tried. REGARD for the health, the decent manners, the intellectual progress, and the moral welfare of the children, common humanity, policy, duty, the highest worldly interests of the race, were marshalled on one side, demanding a change; selfishness, cupidity, insensibility to the wants and welfare of others, and that fallacious plea, that because the school-house had answered the purpose so long, therefore it would continue to answer it still longer,—an argument which would make all houses, and roads, and everything made by human hands, last for ever,—resisted the change. The disgraceful contrast between the school-house and all other edifices, whether public or private, in its vicinity; the immense physical and spiritual sacrifices which its condition inflicted upon the rising generation, were often and unavailingly urged; but there was always one argument which the advocates for reform could use with irresistible effect,—the school-house itself. Cold winds, whistling through crannies and chinks and broken windows, told with merciless effect upon the opponents. The ardor of opposition was cooled by snow-blasts rushing up through the floor. Pain-imparting seats made it impossible for the objectors to listen patiently even to arguments on their own side; and it was obvious that the tears they shed were less attributable to any wrongs which they feared, than to the volumes of smoke which belched out with every gust of wind, from broken funnels and chimneys. Such was the case in some houses. In others, opposite evils prevailed; and the heat and stifling air and nauseating effluvia were such as grown man has hardly been compelled to live in, since the time of Jonah.

"Though insensible to arguments addressed to reason and conscience, yet the senses and muscles and nerves of this class of men were less hardened than their hearts; and the colds and cramps, the exhaustion and debility, which they carried home, worked mightily for their conversion to truth. Under such circumstances, persuasion became compulsory.

"Could the leaders of the opposition have transferred the debate to some commodious public hall, or to their own spacious and elegant mansions, they might have bid defiance to humanity and remained masters of the field. But the party of reform held them relentlessly to the battle-ground; and the cause of progress triumphed, on the very spot where it had been so long dishonored.

"During the five years immediately succeeding the report made by the Board of Education to the Legislature, on the subject of school-houses, the sums expended for the erection or repair of this class of buildings fell but little short of seven hundred thousand dollars. Since that time, from the best information obtained, I suppose the sum expended on this one item to be about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars annually. Every year adds some new improvement to the construction and arrangement of these edifices.

"In regard to this great change in school-houses—it would hardly be too much to call it a revolution—the school committees have done an excellent work,—or rather, they have begun it;—it is not yet done. Their annual reports, read in open town meeting, or printed and circulated among the inhabitants, afterwards embodied in the Abstracts and distributed to all the members of the government, to all towns and

school committees, have enlightened and convinced a State."

And the result of this revolution has been that, at the present standing, "no State in the Union—no country in the world," can show statistical returns which give so favorable a report upon the condition and improvement of public schools, and exhibit such noble and systematic liberality.

The report of the Superintendent of Common Schools of New York, made to the Legislature in 1844, exhibits quite as bad a state of things, as any described in the foregoing extracts. Out of 9,368 school-houses visited and inspected by the County Superintendents, 3,319 were in bad repair, and totally unfit for school purposes: 544 only were furnished with more than one room; 7,313 had no suitable play-ground; 6,423 had no privy whatever; 5,972 were destitute of convenient seats, desks, &c.; and 7,889 were not supplied with proper facilities for ventilation. On which the Superintendent forcibly remarks:—

"And it is in these miserable abodes of accumulated dirt and filth, deprived of wholesome air, or exposed without adequate protection to the assaults of the elements, with no facilities for necessary exercise or relaxation, no convenience for prosecuting their studies; crowded together on benches not admitting of a moment's rest in any position, and debarred the possibility of yielding to the ordinary calls of nature without violent inroads upon modesty and shame; that upwards of two hundred thousand children, scattered over various parts of the State, are compelled to spend an average period of eight months during each year of their pupilage! Here the first lessons of human life, the incipient principles of morality, and the rules of social intercourse are to be impressed upon the plastic mind. The boy is here to receive the model of his permanent character, and to imbibe the elements of his future career; and here the instinctive delicacy of the young female, one of the characteristic ornaments of the sex, is to be expanded into maturity by precept and example! Is it strange, under such circumstances, that an early and invincible repugnance to the acquisition of knowledge is imbibed by the youthful mind: that the school-house is regarded with unconcealed aversion and disgust, and that parents who have any desire to preserve the health and the morals of their children, exclude them from the district school, and provide instruction for them elsewhere?"

Nor are the accounts from other States a whit better. Read the following from the First Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Common Schools to the Legislature of Vermont, dated October, 1846. To be sure it describes an extreme case; but that such a condition of things should for a moment be allowed to exist even in a solitary instance is a lamentable testimony to the neglect and indifference too generally prevailing upon the most vital subjects; and in fact we find it stated that all the County Superintendents concur in proclaiming the melancholy fact that a large proportion of the school-houses "throughout the State must be set down as in a miserable condition," and that they are all "as a class, altogether unsuited to their high purposes."

"But this notice of ordinary deficiencies does not cover the whole ground of error in regard to the situation of school-houses. In some cases they are brought into close connexion with positive nuisances. In a case which has fallen under the Superintendent's own personal observation, one side of the school-house forms part of the fence of a hog-yard, into which, during the summer, the calves from an extensive dairy establishment have been thrown from time to

time (disgusting and revolting spectacle!), to be rent and devoured before the eyes of teacher and pupils—except such portions of the mutilated and mangled carcasses as were left by the animals to go to decay, as they lay exposed to the sun and storm. It is true the windows on the side of the building adjoining the yard, were generally observed to be closed, in order to shut out the almost insupportable stench which arose from the decomposing remains. But this closure of windows could in no great degree 'abate the nuisance;' for not a breath of air could enter the house from any direction but it must come saturated with the disgusting and sickening odor that loaded the atmosphere around. It needs no professional learning to tell the deleterious influence upon health, which must be exerted by such an agency, operating for continuous hours."

Reports of a similar character, full of the most painful details upon the past and present condition of school-houses, though varying in degree, have been handed in within the last few years from official sources in the States of New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, and Michigan. The authenticity of the details is beyond question; and we can only hope that the exposure has had some effect in rousing attention to the necessity of a thorough reform. Indeed we are given to understand that "some advance has been made within a few years past, both in public opinion and public action," and of this some evidence is afforded by the engravings and plans of school-houses recently erected in many of these States which crowd the pages of this volume; but "still the standard of actual attainment is very low, and the disastrous consequences of neglect are not sufficiently, or generally appreciated." And when it is remembered that the preceding extracts describe "the condition of school-houses in States where public education has received the most attention," it may easily be conceived what a deplorable state of things must exist in those portions of the Union where the reforming impetus has not been felt. Nor do these accounts refer only to the thinly peopled parts; in flourishing villages and district towns, the school-houses are reported as hardly more comfortable than the adjacent barns. We trust we shall soon be able to say of the reform which now progresses so slowly, *vires acquirit eundo*; and that its influence will extend to those states which have been hitherto supine. Without decent, comfortable, properly furnished and well ventilated school-houses, it were futile to look for success in any system of public instruction.

After thoroughly exposing the past and present condition of schoolhouses, Mr. Barnard enters upon the main subject of his work; and supplies the amplest details on the principles to be observed in the location, style, construction, ventilation, furniture, and external arrangements of schoolhouses, giving abundance of plans and drawings, as well of interiors as exteriors, illustrating both the architectural features and the economical arrangements, the different methods of ventilation and warming, the proper disposition and most approved patterns of desks and seats, and in fact the construction and arrangement of everything in the way of fixture or movable furniture that experience has shown to be best adapted both for teacher and scholar. The plans and descriptions are partly taken from school-houses recently erected, and partly some which have been favorably recommended by practical teachers; and nothing appears to be overlooked which can in any way promote the general views of school architecture, with which this

essay was originally written, and which are thus forcibly put forth:—

"The subject was forced on the attention of the author in the very outset of his labors in the field of public education. Go where he would, in city or in country, he encountered the district school-house, standing in disgraceful contrast with every other structure designed for public or domestic use. Its location, construction, furniture, and arrangements, seemed intended to hinder and not promote, to defeat and not perfect, the work which was to be carried on within and without its walls. The attention of parents and school officers was early and earnestly called to the close connexion between a good school-house and a good school, and to the great principle that to make an edifice good for school purposes, it should be built for children at school and their teachers; for children differing in age, sex, size, and studies, and therefore requiring different accommodations; for children engaged sometimes in study and sometimes in recitation; for children whose health and success in study require that they shall be frequently, and every day, in the open air, for exercise and recreation, and at all times supplied with pure air to breathe; for children who are to occupy it in the hot days of summer, and the cold days of winter, and to occupy it for periods of time in different parts of the day, in positions which become wearisome, if the seats are not in all respects comfortable, and which may affect symmetry of form and length of life, if the construction and relative heights of seats and desks which they occupy are not properly attended to; for children whose manners and morals,—whose habits of order, cleanliness, and punctuality,—whose temper, love of study and of the school, are in no inconsiderable degree affected by the attractive or repulsive location and appearance, the inexpensive out-door arrangements, and the internal construction of the place where they spend or should spend a large part of the most impressive period of their lives. This place, too, it should be borne in mind, is to be occupied by a teacher whose own health and daily happiness are affected by most of the various circumstances above alluded to, and whose best plans of order, classification, discipline, and recitation, may be utterly baffled, or greatly promoted, by the manner in which the school-house may be located, lighted, warmed, ventilated, and seated."

And most fully and satisfactorily are these views illustrated and enforced. Mr. Barnard's position as Commissioner of Public Schools in Rhode Island has given him every opportunity for a thorough investigation of the subject; and his opinions and suggestions are entitled to the weight which is always accorded to a sound judgment and enlightened experience. Nothing is too minute to escape his attention; he has even gone beyond the immediate object of his book, and given hints upon the internal economy and management of public schools, codes of regulation which have been found practically useful, approved catalogues of educational books, maps, and charts, and assorted lists of scientific apparatus, which must be of essential service to school committees and trustees. We understand from the preface that the substance of this volume has already been somewhat extensively circulated by means of private gratuitous distribution "in the States where the author has been called upon to labor in the cause of common-school improvement;" and that after being gradually enlarged to its present bulk, it was thought advisable to put it into the hands of a publishing house, with a view to bring it more immediately under the notice of the public. There is little doubt but that even its former limited sphere contributed materially to the reforms which have already been made in the construction of schoolhouses; and as it has fallen into

the hands of publishers abundantly able to give it the widest circulation, we hope for the best results from the extensive diffusion of a knowledge of the most essential sanitary principles, together with the most judicious and economical manner of their application.

Works in Press.

SUNDAY READING.

[From *Euthanasia, or Happy Talk towards the end of Life*. By William Mouniford, author of *Martyria*, etc. Now in press, by Messrs. Crosby and Nichols, Boston.]

ONE weary evening in illness, I fell asleep, it having been just before a subject of prayer with me, that God would grant me a right frame of mind to die in. For, as I said to myself at the end of my prayer, "It would be dreadful in death if sight were to fail me, and I could see no friendly face, and hearing were to fail me, and I could hear no comforting voice, and in my soul there were to be doubts and an agony of doubt." And as I thought this, weakness overcame me, and I slept; and very soon I dreamed.

And in my dream I heard voices and footsteps. And it was as though many persons were going to and fro, in great gladness and in light. But I could not myself see at all, and I was like one blind. And I was persuaded that I had died in my sleep, and that I was at the gate of the city of God, and unable to enter in, on account of my darkness. And I was afraid to move; for I did not know but that, in one step, I might fall headlong from the narrow way that leads into life. And I said in myself, "Unblessed art thou, and not able to see God; and thou must have died in impurity of heart; and always, always thou wert fearful, and like one not quite believing." I was terrified. I felt, as it were, the pit of destruction yawning against me; I was to be an example of the just judgment of God; and in my end was to be seen how, without any great wandering, the path of the commandment may be kept up to the last step, and that last step be perdition, through weakness of faith. O, the dread I was in, and the terror!

I listened, and there was silence. It was as though all things were hushed by the awfulness of what was to happen to me. I was there, a spectacle to the spirits of men and to angels. My faith had failed me at the very last, and in the littleness of it I was to perish. There were witnesses of my wretchedness nigh me; that I could feel; and I could feel that there was sorrow amongst them. And within myself I thought, "Thy unbelief was thy own misery on earth, and now, at the very gate of heaven, it is a grief to the angels, and it is what God has no pleasure in." And now, at once, I was calm. Hell might be under my feet, but it could not open, except by the will of God; and that blessed will was what I would pray to have done, though destruction had hold of my feet the while. I bowed my head, and covered my face with my hands, and I cried, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." Then a voice of triumph said, "Now he has overcome and has got the victory!" And other glad voices said, "The victory, the victory!" But there was one which said, "Almost, he has."

For a moment I could see, and then I was blind again. When I feared, then I was in a horror of darkness; but every hopeful thought flashed through me, like lightning out of a midnight sky. I wondered what was to happen. But happen what might, I thought I

could perish gladly, if it were by the will of God, and for God's good purpose.

And now, with this perfect love of God, my fear was cast out. And I was not in blindness any longer. The God whom I loved, I could see by. I could see; and, O, by what a light! For there was no shadow in it, because it did not shine from a sun or a moon, or from any one quarter. But it was uncreated light, and was the visible presence of God; and was itself a joy to see by.

There were spirits standing round me. And some of them I knew, by their looks, were natives of the same world as myself. But towards others, I felt as though I did not know them, and yet as though I knew them well. O the blessedness which went through me from their looks! Compassed about with them, it was as though I could have remained for ever, and not have moved. But behind those who were nearest me, I saw standing a friend of mine, who had died many years before. His face was glorified; but whether it was changed or not, I cannot tell. His look made the same feeling in me that his best words used to do, and so it was I knew him, as I think. And I saw another person whom I knew. Then I said, "O my brethren, am I then amongst you, at last? And am I come out of the earth so safely?"

Then I learned that I had yet to die. And many high things were said to comfort and encourage me. I was in a tumult of glory, and joy, and wonder. Then I asked, "Shall I remember these great things when I come to die?" And then one answered, "No. Nor in the body will he remember them at all. For of the way of our spiritual life no knowledge can be kept by a dweller of earth. But let them that have come out of the earth tell him what earthly words of their life have proved the truest, and he will remember them."

And the first who spoke was one who had been a minister of Christ's in the town of my birth, but who had died a century and a half before I was born; for it was Richard Baxter who spoke, and it was as though he knew me. His name had been known and loved by me as a little child, with a love which I learned from my dear mother. And so, through earnest gazing on his face, I did not hear his words quite exactly. But as nearly as I remember, he said, "Never be persuaded that ever a soul will be cast out, which humbly and earnestly, and with many prayers, has sought its God."

Then Robert Leighton looked at me and said, "You, in your thoughts, shut up death into a very narrow compass, namely, into the moment of your expiring. But the truth is, it goes through all your life; for you are still losing and spending life as you enjoy it."

The next who spoke, was one whom I knew to be John Wycliffe, and he said, "Men should not fear, except on account of sin, or the losing of virtues; since pain is just, and according to the will of God. And the joy which saints have, when they suffer thus, is a manner of bliss which belongs to them in the earth; and it may be more of joy to them than all their worldly desires."

And then some one said, "You may not look at your pleasure, to come to heaven in a feather-bed. It is not the way. For our Lord himself came hither with great pain and many tribulations; that was the path wherein he walked hither. And the servant may not look to be in better case than his Master." He who spoke thus stood so that I could not see him, but by what he said, I knew that he was Thomas More.

"Reflect on death as in Jesus Christ, not as without Jesus Christ. Without Jesus Christ it is dreadful, it is alarming, it is the terror of nature. In Jesus Christ, it is fair and lovely, it is good and holy, it is the joy of the saints." These were Pascal's words to me.

Then one who stood next to Pascal looked at me. Him I did not know; but when he spoke, I knew him by his words to be Thomas à Kempis. And he said, "When the hour of your trial comes, do you pray,—O God, dearly loved! This hour, it is right that thy creature should suffer something from thee, and for thee. O Father, the hour is come for him, which from all eternity thou hast foreknown would come, that thy servant should lie prostrate at thy door; but, Lord, do thou let him in to be with thee, O, for ever! For a little while must I be nothing, and I must fail in the sight of men, and I must be worn with suffering and weakness. But it is all so that I may rise in the dawn of a new light, and grow glorious in heaven. Holy Father! so thou hast ordered it; and what is done and is doing on me, is thy decree."

When this prayer for my learning was ended, Augustine exclaimed, "O this life which God has laid up in store for them that love him,—this life indeed! This happy, safe, and most lovely, this holy life! This life which fears no death, which feels no sorrow, which knows no sin! This perfect love and harmony of souls! This day that never declines,—this light that never goes out! Think of its blisses and glories, and so find some refreshment from the miseries and toils of a perishing life. And at the last, recline your weary head and lay you down to sleep with joy; for you know now that that sleep shall be shaken off again, and the blessedness of this life begin at once on your awaking."

Then a voice spoke; and, O, it was so clear, and sweet, and grateful! and it was the voice of Margaret Fox; and she said, "Now these have finished their course and their testimony, and are entered into their eternal rest and felicity. I trust in the same powerful God, that his holy arm and power will carry thee through whatever he hath yet for thee to do; and that he will be thy strength and support, and the bearer up of thy head unto the end, and in the end. For I know his faithfulness and goodness, and I have experience of his love. To whom be glory and powerful dominion for ever. Amen."

All that were standing by said Amen, like one voice. And with Amen upon my lips, I awoke.

I was sitting by the fire. And in my hand there was a book, into which I had copied many things from my reading. From this dream I inferred that we mortals have all the knowledge of the world to come which we can have, and all the assurance of it which is good for us, and that, for a believer in earnest, the right feeling towards the next life is hope, and not fear. And from my dream, I learned that sympathy with saints gone hence, brings us into that state of mind that is most firmly persuaded, of the heavens, into which they have entered.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE.

THE Association of Scientific Men organized some years ago under the designation of the "Association of American Naturalists and Geologists," at the Annual Meeting held in Boston, in September, 1847, resolved, in view of the constantly increasing interest manifested in its proceedings, to adopt a more compre-

hensive organization, and with it a new name better indicative of the wider scope which it would take under the new organization. It was resolved that the Association should thereafter be known under the name of the "AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE." The plan of the new organization, it may be observed, is substantially that of the British Association, and admits of as many subdivisions or "Sections" as may be deemed advisable to facilitate the proceedings of the Association at its Annual meetings. The first meeting under the new organization commenced its session in Philadelphia, in the rooms of the Academy of Natural Sciences, on Wednesday, the 20th inst., Professor W. B. ROGERS, of the University of Virginia, in the chair. The forenoon of Wednesday was devoted entirely to preliminary business, consequent upon the changes already noticed. A new constitution and rules for the government of the Association were reported by the Committee appointed for that purpose, and were adopted. Permanent officers were then elected, viz:—

President—W. C. REDFIELD, of New York City.

Secretaries—Prof. WALTER R. JOHNSON, Washington; Dr. L. J. GERMAIN, Dr. M. W. DICKESON.

Treasurer (pro tem.)—Dr. ALFRED L. ELWYN, Philadelphia.

On Wednesday afternoon the legitimate business of the Association fairly commenced. The subjoined abstract of the proceedings is made up from the reports in the daily papers, but chiefly from that of the *New York Tribune*, which is exceedingly full and accurate:

The first thing in the order of business was the presentation of the Report of Dr. P. A. BROWNE, on the New Jersey Fossil Cephalopodes and the Di-phosphate of Iron—of which the following is a brief abstract:

A mineral substance is found at Mullica Hill, Gloucester County, N. J., to which has been given the name of *Mullicite*. Dr. Thompson, in the first volume of his *Mineralogy*, has described this substance in an imperfect manner, owing, no doubt, to his not possessing sufficient specimens. Dr. BROWNE observed that, having in his cabinet a number of them, which exhibit the mineral in all its phases, he was induced to point out some of its peculiarities, and to endeavor to show its origin.

It will be recollected, proceeded Dr. B., that the fossil long known by the name of *Belemnite*, has been recently shown to be a portion of the skeleton of a Cephalopode (*Belemnosepia*) which for convenience sake may be designated as consisting of, 1st, a circular wall of a chamber in which the living animal preserved a sac containing an inky fluid, which it ejected to destroy the transparency of the water, to enable it to escape its enemies; 2d, a number of conical-shaped pieces fitting into each other, forming as many chambers, all communicating by a central opening; 3d, a solid, straight, conical-shaped, fibrous portion, terminating in a point, and perforated throughout, by a central tube or siphuncle.

Perfect specimens of this skeleton, found fossil in England, may be seen in the Cabinet of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and drawings and a description may be consulted in Buckland's *Geology and Mineralogy*. The only portions found at Mullica Hill appertain to section 2 and 3 of the above descriptions.

Mullica Hill belongs to the Tertiary formation, and consists of small-grained gravel and sand, bound together by hydrated peroxide of iron, which abounds in fossils, in various stages of preservation. Some of these Dr. BROWNE proceeded to describe. He exhibited over a dozen distinct specimens, accompanied by detailed de-

scriptions—which (not being readily understood without a sight of the specimens themselves) we omit. All these were referable to the Cephalopodes (*Belemnosepia*); and fragments of portions of them have been denominated *Belemnites*.

Mr. BROWNE then proceeded to speak of a different kind of Fossil—the first of which was a series of masses of a conchoidal shape, from two to three inches in length. Its general figure is concavo-convex, and appearances indicate that they emanated from *bivalve shells*. The color is bluish-black, the crystallization lamellar, fasciculated, the bundles radiating; or lamellar and lanceolate, the lances stellated. Another specimen was single crystals showing the lamellar, lanceolate, and filiform structure and metallic color.

Upon examination, the mineral was found to be phosphate of iron. From a comparison of these specimens it is apparent that the "congeries of small needles" described by Dr. Thompson, as radiating from the centre of the fossilized *Belemnite*, are not the true crystal of the mineral substance (Di-phosphate of iron) as he supposed; but are due to the former structure of a portion of the Cephalopodes.

At the time that the animals whose fossil remains are now there found, were living inhabitants of Mullica Hill, the iron was disseminated in the ferruginous sand. As these animals, after dissolution, surrendered their phosphoric acid, it combined with the iron and water, forming the di-phosphate of iron, and as the operations of decomposition and transmission were gradual, it is natural that the new mineral should take the structure and form of the former animal substance.

Phillips, in his "Mineralogy," speaking of blue iron (phosphate of iron) says, that in LISERIA it is found in fossil shells, but he does not describe its crystallization.

The next paper presented was that of Prof. EMMONS on the identity of *Atops trilineatus* and the *Friarthus Beckii*, with remarks upon the *Eliptocephalus Asaphoides*. The Report was accompanied by several finely-executed illustrations on copper.

Of the *Eliptocephalus*, Prof. EMMONS observes, that although acknowledged a new and different species from any that had been described previous to the publication of the *Taconic System*, it has been referred to the genus *Olenus*. This view of the fossil does not affect the validity or stability of this system. Prof. Emmons proceeded to describe the minute differences in the number of joints of each, their appearance, &c. &c.

At the conclusion of the last paper the Association proceeded to ballot for six members of the Standing Committee, with the following result—the choice of Profs. Pierce, Haldeman, Henry, Agassiz, Dr. Browne, and Richard C. Taylor, Esq.

A resolution was moved, seconded, and adopted, to invite the citizens of Philadelphia to attend any of the general evening meetings of the Association; the first to be held on Friday evening.

SECOND DAY.

The Standing Committee reported on a division of the Association into two distinct sections—one embracing *General Physics*: Mathematics, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, and the Applied Sciences generally; the other including *Natural History*: Geology, Physiology, and Medicine.

Accordingly, the Convention divided itself into these two Sections, each holding separate sessions in different rooms of the University. Of the first (on General Physics), Prof. HENRY was appointed Chairman, and Prof. B. SILLIMAN, Jr., Secretary.

Of the other, the officers chosen were: *Chairman*, Prof. AGASSIZ; *Secretary*, Dr. R. W. GIBBS.

Each section reconvened at about 11 o'clock, and each forthwith proceeded with its appropriate business.

SECTION OF NATURAL HISTORY.—First, a communication from Lieut. DAVIS, U. S. N., on the *Geological Action of the Tides* (presented by Prof. PIERCE). Prof. P. prefaced Lieut. Davis's communication, by a few remarks on the general principles of the theory, the object of the paper being to exhibit the action of the Moon as tending to alter the figure of the Earth.

By a study of the tidal currents on the North-eastern Coast of the United States, Lieut. DAVIS has been led to the discovery of a connexion between the ocean tides and currents, and the alluvial deposits on its borders and in its depths. The connexion is thus traced: the direction and velocity of the tides at any place where these deposits exist—that is, where the ocean is freighted with matter held in suspension—decides the form, amount, and locality of the deposits. The direction of the tides is different at different places, but the result of their action is to produce certain uniform or similar formations, and it was the observation of this which led Lieut. DAVIS to the introduction of a Tidal Theory into Geology, the object of which is to develop the laws by which aqueous deposits (of the sea) made during periods of quiet action, have been regulated, and to show that such laws must always have operated except when suspended or controlled by the violent changes that mark certain Geological epochs. Lieut. Davis applies these principles of tidal action to explain the cause of these great sandy deposits on the north-eastern border of this Continent, as well as those at the bottom of the Bay of Biscay (the Landes of France) and in the North Sea (Holland, &c.).

In order to illustrate Lieut. Davis's views more fully, Prof. PIERCE entered into some of the details upon which they have been formed.

For this purpose he exhibited a number of charts, the first of which represented the deposits around the Island of NANTUCKET. The tidal current there comes freighted with sand, and as it strikes the island it is deposited. Yet the current which is acting there all the time is not only depositing, but it is also taking away—so that, all the time flowing in every direction, and universally distributed, not very much is accumulated in any one place. The deposits are nearly equally made at various points.

The extremity of the Island has been supposed to be formed by deposits coming from the Island itself (i. e. by the shifting influence of the changing current)—but this is shown not to be the case; that portion of the Island being formed solely by the tidal currents. As an instance of the force of these currents, Professor PIERCE cited an instance. A short time ago, a ship was wrecked at one end of the Island, and the Keeper of the Lighthouse at the other end actually supplied himself with fuel from the coal which was originally deposited with the wrecked vessel. The coal was brought clear round the Island and deposited at its furthest extremity, by the mere force of these currents. Bricks have in the same manner been carried, and at Sacoconset there is now standing a chimney actually built from bricks which were carried all round the Island in the same way.

And further: Let a ship be sunk there, and in a few years it will be completely covered with sand. Thus it is that the nucleus of the Shoals is formed. Sandy Hook is a deposit of this kind; the Hook of Cape Cod is another.

There is, besides the tidal, another small current, which meets the other, and both together possess great force; and where two tides meet as they pass out, there will be a deposit. And if an Island shore, that island will thus soon be connected with the main land.

The deposit taking place at the mouths of harbors is generally an ocean deposit. Although often regarded as brought down by the rivers, being sand, its origin is at once developed. At Nantucket (continued Prof. Pierce), the land is prevented from being shut in by the force of the water which must find a passage; yet some portions of it, where there are irregularities in the shore, have gained upon the water, and partly

surrounded it, by which the enclosed lagoons are formed.

On this theory of the Tides, remarked Prof. PIERCE, Lieut. Davis thinks he can explain the sand deposits all along our coast.—In connexion with this, Mr. DESON has made observations on the *Distribution of the Marine Animals*, in which he endeavored to account for the changes, existence, etc., of the different species. He observes that at different depths of the ocean, various distinct kinds are formed, and judges that geological investigation may account for it.

Regarding the theory of the Tides advanced by Lieut. DAVIS, some discussion was excited. Mr. REDFIELD opposed the views entertained by Lieut. D. He reasoned long and well that the deposits of sand are not so much owing to tidal action as to the direct agency of the waves. Other gentlemen thought, some one thing, others another, and nothing was agreed upon definitively.

Dr. GOULD observed that he was never able to find sea-weed on the beach when the wind was towards the shore, but always when blowing off the land deposits were made upon the beach. This he had heard accounted for (he presumed correctly) as the effect of an undertow, which acts always in a reverse direction to the action of the wind.

Dr. DICKESON related a remarkable incident, where, at the Island of Galveston in 1839, a vessel from New Orleans was wrecked (at the south end) with a considerable amount of specie. The officers of the Custom-House took immediate measures to recover the valuable cargo, and in a little time the workmen reported the vessel nearly covered with sand. A few weeks after, at the other end of the Island—some 28 miles or thereabouts—some fishermen brought up some of the doubloons. They were arrested and imprisoned on a charge of robbing the wreck, their protestations of having really found the gold at so great a distance not being credited for a moment, till scientific research convinced the authorities that the metal was really carried to that distance, of course by the force of the current. An instance of the way heavy bodies are transported.

Prof. AGASSIZ observed that ripple-marks are often formed by the action of the wind upon the dry sand. But there are three distinct kinds of them—the tidal, those formed by the regular action of water, and also by the wind acting upon the sand—which shows the importance of distinguishing between them. Ripple-marks, he observed, only exist where tides exist; the earliest periods of the Moon's action may thus be estimated.

Prof. PIERCE remarked that wherever very high tides exist, as on the coast of Maine, the coast was washed away.

Lake Superior.—Fishes—Comparisons.—Prof. AGASSIZ remarked, that it had been his good fortune, during the present Summer, to have opportunities, in company with several friends—some of whom he now saw present—to explore the Northern Lakes, and more especially Lake Superior. His attention had been called particularly to the Fishes, a subject always of very great interest to him, and of which he had acquired at the Lakes some new and valuable knowledge. His object, he observed, was not so much to effect a comparison between the Fishes of the United States and Canada, as to ascertain their Geographical Distribution, and to satisfy himself whether they were INDISTINGUISHABLY DISTRIBUTED through all these Lakes, or whether there were differences in the localities where found.

On carefully comparing, he found that the distribution is entirely different—that particular families are in some, and other families in another part, and that they *never leave* their peculiar locality. He finds that there are families in Lake Huron which are not in Lake Superior, and some in Lake Superior which do not move down into the lower Lakes, although the communication between them is always open and easy. The Fishes, then, of the several Lakes,

are very different—another illustration of the great law of distribution and localization. Prof. A. considers that these Fishes originate where they are found; and it is a singular fact that they are generally located in very similar positions with the Fishes of Europe—yet, although they so agree generally with the European varieties, they are greatly different in zoological characteristics; so that there can be no transportation of the separate varieties from our own country to another, and there is no connexion of the freshwater Fishes of Lake Huron with those of Southern Europe. [Prof. Agassiz proceeded to define these differences between them at length. In Lake Huron there are many of the *Perch* family—none in Lake Superior, and so on.]

It is well known, from geological data, that North America is the oldest continental land upon earth. The general ancient character of this country is deeply impressed upon the mind of the active geologist, and he [Prof. A.] could not help feeling it when exploring the northern shore of Lake Superior. Is it not remarkable that animals now exist which are old-fashioned in their external zoological character—and that they should be of the same type with animals long since considered extinct. It is North America where the Garpikes live, and the garpike is the only representative of the periods when that fish only lived!

Among these Fishes there are two types—one with smooth and the other with serrated scales; the serrated scales have usually two dorsal fins. He had found in Lake Superior a new Fish, with spines upon the opercular bones, and all the scales HARD and serrated, and, what has never been before observed in hard-scaled fishes, it has, like the Salmon, an adipose or fatty fin.

Here, then, upon Lake Superior, we have these old-fashioned fishes upon this old soil. He considered it important to trace our living animals in their relation to the Fossils, as also their geographical distribution. This country was undoubtedly first dry land, and the animals preserved seem to remind us of the olden ages.

Mr. REDFIELD asked if the White Fish of the Lakes was not common?

Prof. AGASSIZ replied, it is. He mentioned that he had collected 33 Fishes on Lake Superior, and exhibited drawings of several. About a dozen of them are entirely new varieties.

Prof. HALL exhibited a number of specimens of the tracks of Mollusca, upon Sandstone, and gave his views upon them as an evidence of beaches in the Silurian period. From the tracks of Mollusca on the sandstone, the Professor was led to the belief that sea beaches formerly existed far in the interior of the land.

New Fish in the Hudson River.—Mr. E. Powers, of Lansingburgh, observed that two new varieties of fish have existed in the Hudson River that undoubtedly have come from the Lakes since the opening of the Canal. He recollected that the first black bass he ever saw, was caught in the Hudson above Troy, and that when found it excited general remark.

The Fossils of South Carolina.—The paper of Prof. Turner, relating his investigations in the Tertiary of South Carolina, was presented just before adjournment in the morning through Dr. MORTON of this city.

Prof. T. has found that the Eocene of South Carolina is composed of three well characterized divisions; of these the lowest in the series is the burrstone formation, consisting of beds of sand, clay, gravel, and grit, resting upon the cretaceous beds. The fossils, which are all silicified, occur in the upper part of the formation, and along the verge of the superincumbent calcareous strata; they are for the most part identical with those of Claibourne, and represent a literal Fauna. Although the fossils of these beds include nearly all of those considered characteristic of the Eocene of the United States, nevertheless there are among them well-characterized cretaceous forms. Prof. T. observes further, that the coast of South Carolina presents no evidence of very recent subsidence, as

stated by some writers, but that all the phenomena attributed to that cause are the result of the horizontal changes going on at this moment.

Dr. REYNELL COATES asked whether Fishes of the Arctic and Antarctic regions differ?

Prof. AGASSIZ said, those on the south of New Holland, of the Cape of Good Hope and the southern point of the American continent, differ very much. He only spoke, however, of specimens sent to him.

Prof. JOHNSON thought Physical Geography must have an important bearing on these points.

The CHAIRMAN thought that, in general, we do not find physical conditions to agree with geographical distribution. New Holland is near the group of Islands connecting Asia and America, yet the animals are different.

SECTION OF GENERAL PHYSICS.—Professor HENRY in the chair.

The first paper read was a Report on Winds, or the Laws of Atmosphere, in Circulation in the Northern Hemisphere, by Prof. COFFIN. This paper related to the direction of the lower strata of the air, as a whole, as they move over different regions of the Northern Hemisphere; and treated of the laws (if any) which the winds observe in their variations from their general course. By the term *lower strata*, Prof. C. included all those within the reach of observation, whether by the motions of the clouds, or by means of a vane; for they all belong to the same general system, embracing, perhaps, one-fifth to one-quarter of the entire atmosphere. (Prof. C. here entered into a detailed description of numerous illustrative diagrams and charts, with an account of the variations of the locality of the winds, and the number of years these variations have prevailed.) The method of applying these data, to determine the course of the winds, is simple and obvious; yet it is remarkable that it has not been adopted till within a few years. It consists of resolving the courses of the winds precisely as we do the traverse of a ship at sea. As we go southerly through the States of Virginia, North Carolina, and the northern part of Georgia, the system of westerly winds loses its decided character, and about the latitude of Augusta (33° 28') it entirely breaks up, and its place is supplied by winds from the opposite direction, which become more and more decided in their character, till we come within the limits of the Trade Winds. As the heated air near the Equator rises and attempts to flow northerly towards the Pole, it crosses successive parallels of latitude, whose easterly motion, by virtue of the Earth's diurnal revolution, is constantly becoming less and less. But the air, retaining the easterly motion which it had at the Equator, and consequently moving more rapidly in that direction than the places over which it passes, has a relative motion, as from the west, which, combined with its motion towards the North Pole, would carry it towards the north-east, and finally towards the east. When we reflect that it is about 6,000 miles from the Equator to the Pole, while one-half of the entire atmosphere lies within seven miles of the surface of the earth, we see that it must be quite impossible for the upper current to flow the whole distance over so thin a stratum, without communicating to it its own motion, by friction. Hence there must be a point where the influence of the upper current, moving in a north-easterly direction, must extend quite down to the surface of the earth, and where it must then fold under itself to supply again the N.E. winds. This point Prof. COFFIN supposed to be (on this Continent) about the latitude of Augusta, a little further north than has been sometimes supposed.

The next subject in order was a discourse on *The Flexible Surface*, by Prof. PIERCE.

The third subject was a paper on *Meteorites*, by Prof. C. U. SHEPARD. The Professor presented numerous specimens, and went on describing each at length. He related also several instances of the fall of meteoric stones, one appearing as a luminous fire-ball, coming from a

south-easterly direction, apparently one-third or half as large as the Moon, which proceeded with great velocity with a kind of rushing noise, like the approach of a high river. This occurred at Waterville, Maine, in September, 1826. Another mentioned by Prof. Shepard, fell at Concord, N.H.

The Volatility of Potassa and Soda, and their Carbonates.—Professors W. B. ROGERS and R. E. ROGERS, presented a communication on the Volatility of Potassa and Soda, in which they detailed the results of numerous experiments, proving that these materials have a much higher degree of Volatility than has hitherto been supposed, and exhibiting the comparative rapidity with which they are volatilized when exposed to a lamp heat and that of the blow-pipe. By experimenting with equal weights similarly exposed, and weighed from time to time in the process, it was found that Potassa was the most volatile. Soda came next; Magnesia was found less volatile than Soda, and Lime so greatly inferior in this respect to Magnesia as to require a long-continued high temperature to cause a sensible loss. The Carbonates of Potassa and Soda had the same order of volatility with the bases themselves.

Reference was made to the important bearings of this determination upon Chemical Analysis—first, as furnishing the means of recognising the presence of the alkalies and of the alkaline earths in mineral substances, such as the Feldspars, Hornblendes, Epidote, &c., and, secondly, as indicating the probably large loss of the alkalies of vegetable matters through the intense heat used in converting them into ashes. Allusion was made to the almost entire absence of alkalies in the ashes of anthracite and other coals, as dependent on the intense heat operating in their combustion, and experiments were adduced to show that the coal, prior to the combustion, contained alkaline matter in marked quantity.

The Volatility of Magnesia, as compared with Lime, was spoken of as useful in distinguishing between Magnesian and Calcareous Minerals, and the process of dolonization and other experiments connected with the formation or alteration of rocks by lime spoken of in the same connexion.

(To be continued.)

Poetry.

THE SEA AND THE SOVEREIGN.

It is said that after the death of Prince William, eldest son of Henry I., King of England, who was wrecked off the coast of Normandy, the monarch was never seen to smile more.

Open, ye ruthless waves!
Open the mouths of your uncouth graves,
To swallow up a King!
It is no common thing:
A kingdom in *one* man incorporated
Goes down to hold his court among your dead.

Jewels lie fathoms down
To glisten, set in crystal, in his crown;
A coral carcanet
An insect realm may set
(A bauble that a king were proud to wear)
Upon his marble throat, all stiff and bare.

Build him an amber throne
And deck it well with many a luring stone;—
And let his footstool be
The lapis lazuli;—
And hang his halls with stalactites, whose sheen
May make a daylight in the sub-marine.

An argosie of pearls
May glisten in his waving yellow curls—
I ween no wealthier prince
Hath swayed a kingdom, since
The silver was as dust in Judah's street
Trodden by Solomon's imperial feet.

Out bursts the ancient sea
With bitter merriment in mockery,
"Take thou," she saith, "the gem
To deck thy diadem—
The hidden riches of my caves be thine—
I have *thy* treasure:—pay thyself in *mine*!"

"The pomp is bootless now—
A gemmed tiara for that fleshless brow!
There is no need of thrones
For those enamelled bones!
Of daylight for those hollow, sightless eyes!
I rob not. Take *thou* booty for *my* prize."

There is a broken groan,
A wail of sorrow from a kingly throne.
There is a human heart
Of which he was a part!
Whom thou hast swallowed, thou devouring sea!
A father's heart and cry of agony!

For *him* thy gifts are brought—
For *him* thine ores with cunning skill are wrought,
He only cries aloud,
"I crave but for a shroud!
Oh Ocean, pitiless, relentless one!
Thy riches keep! Give back, give back my son."

"Could I but *see* my child
In death, my bitter anguish were more mild!
His buried form *unseen*
Stands day and me between,
My vision blinds, my soul, my reason warps—
Ocean! I would but *once* behold his *corpse*!"

Day laughs out on the sky
With the glad brightness of her waking eye;—
In the all-bless'd Spring
Earth is a happy thing:—
Yea! on her face, the false and murd'rous Sea
Wears smiles of peace. But *never* smileth He!

The altar shows the bride
Full of meek gladness by her lover's side:—
And childhood's sweet caress
Betokens happiness:—
Nay, weary age in infant purity
Finds cause for smiles. But *never* smileth He!

Folly forgets her chime
Armed by that sorrow rev'rend and sublime:—
Forgets Joy to be glad;—
Forgets Grief to be sad;—
Smiles tell him *gone*, and at his coming flee.
What lip *dare* smile;—for *never* smileth He!

The dead man all the while
Lies with the horrid semblance of a smile
Parting his hollow skull!
And glad and beautiful
His Angel in a new felicity
Smiles from the skies. But *never* smileth He!

E. S. B.

Miscellany.

A DAILY JOURNAL FOR THE BEAU MONDE.

A CHOICELY-PRINTED circular has been quietly handed about during the past week, giving information to the effect that a daily journal for the world of *ton* is about to be established in New York, under the editorial charge of Mr. G. G. Foster. A copy of the circular has fallen into our hands, from which we make the following extracts. The circular is addressed "To the over-newspapered Public," and goes on to say:—

"The calamity of the present age is too much reading. What with locomotives and low common, steam presses and expresses, the body politic is covered with an eruption of newspapers and extras, which, notwithstanding the prevalence of capital letters and other inflammatory symptoms, are generally worked off without producing a determination to the brain of anything worth speaking of. Even the lightning, which of old was the exclusive messenger of Jove himself, and never sent but on errands of

destiny or death, has now its nose wrung with a wire reaching from Nova Scotia to New Orleans, and is employed day and night in conveying intelligence of the rise of flour in the East, and the fluctuations of mess pork in the West. * * *

"But some benevolent fairy has inspired us with the idea that there are several thousand full-brained men and women in this beautiful city who must have become weary of reading such news as this, day after day, repeated word by word in all the papers; and that an elegant, choicely-written daily, dropping in quietly after the bustle is over, and when a pleasant friend or a pretty thought is always most welcome, would soon make acquaintance with the refined and the beautiful. With this happy thought fully condensed into a purpose, we have undertaken to establish, on the 1st of October, an evening paper with the title of THE DRAWING-ROOM JOURNAL. The Editorial department will be in the hands of Mr. G. G. FOSTER, formerly City Editor of the New York Tribune and the Philadelphia North American. * * *

"The topics which will engage the columns of the DRAWING-ROOM JOURNAL will be chiefly such as relate to the imaginative and intellectual life of society—to Literature, Fashion, the Fine Arts, Music, the Drama, and whatever is elevating, refining, and sparkling. As to pig-lead and politics, flour and fancy stocks, and other matters of momentous import so ably treated by our elders and our betters, we shall endeavor to keep our readers as profoundly ignorant as ourselves. We eschew 'latest intelligence' of all sorts, and defy the Telegraph in the presence of its local magnets and all other magnates whatever: and having managed thus far to keep out of the Police Office, we shall not now commence our visits there. We have a horror of horrible accidents; nor will we ever inflict ghastly wounds upon unoffending country papers, with a pair of dull scissors, to gratify the morbid curiosity of an insatiate Quidnunc-ery."

We are inclined to the opinion, that if the design expressed in the above circular is carried out, the *Drawing-Room Circular* will be a successful speculation. It seems to us that society in New York has reached the point at which an elegant and sparkling daily journal, which can afford to overlook common and substantial questions, and devote itself exclusively to the filigree of fashion and the frost-work of fancy, will be as welcome as a new belle in the drawing-room or a new flower in the conservatory. We believe that nearly every other conceivable interest has its organ in the press—why exclude from such advantages the elegant precincts of the drawing-room?

DEATH OF LIEUTENANT RUXTON.

LIEUT. GEO. F. RUXTON, of the British Army, died recently at St. Louis, aged 38 years. His disease was the dysentery. Lieut. R. had obtained some distinction in England by his recent work, "Adventures in Mexico and the Rocky Mountains," a book pleasantly written, in an off-hand style, and full of incident. A series of papers from his hand is now in course of publication in Blackwood, entitled "*Scenes in the Far West*." We do not suppose they are intended to be received as details of actual occurrences: for, although there is little law beyond the Western frontiers save that of force, yet no one at all acquainted with life in that region can suppose for an instant, that such preposterous events and incidents as are here recorded are of common or even occasional occurrence.

At the time of his death, Lieut. Ruxton was on his way to California. The immediate object of the trip is stated by the *Boston Transcript*:—

"A friend who crossed the Atlantic with him in one of the late steamers, informs us that

he was a most intelligent and agreeable companion, and that his object in revisiting America was to verify a theory, which he had confidently formed, that the Moqui Indians of New Mexico are the descendants of Prince Madoc of Wales and his followers. While at Fort Leavenworth, Ruxton happened to enter the log hut of an old negro woman. He had on a Moqui blanket, and the old dame, after examining it carefully, exclaimed, "That's a Welsh blanket; I know it by the woof." She had lived with a Welsh family in her youth, and been taught their mode of weaving. From this, and other circumstances, Ruxton was possessed with the idea that the Moquis were genuine Welshmen, and he avowed his determination of investigating the question, or perishing in the attempt."

If we may rely upon this statement of Lieut. Ruxton's objects, we can only say that nothing could be more absurd than a broad inference based upon so trivial a circumstance as a coincidence in the workmanship of Welsh and Moqui blankets! No person need go out of New York to learn that the fabric and workmanship of the blankets of the Navahoes, Moqui, and Pimos Indians are identical, and correspond with those of the aboriginal Mexicans, whose mode of manufacture is well known. No one "posted up" in the results of American research into the origin, character, and antiquities of our aborigines, can withhold a smile when foreigners, with their heads crammed with exploded notions about the apocryphal Madoc and the shadowy Thorfinn, talk of "Welsh Indians" and "Scandinavian remnants." Such fancies were in harmony with things at the time when it was religiously believed that a tribe of Amazons maintained dominion in South America; that Raleigh's El Dorado had an actual existence; that Ponce de Leon's spring of eternal youth flowed among the forests of Florida; and that Dighton rock was a veritable monument of Scandinavian adventure (which theory, so often refuted here, has to our amazement been revived by a very clever man in a paper totally unworthy of him, read at the late meeting of the British Association);—but they are sadly out of place in this last decade of the first half of the nineteenth century.

Although regretting in the sudden demise of Lieut. Ruxton the loss of an amiable man and gallant officer, we shall have small occasion to lament that the investigation of the character, habits, etc., of the almost unknown Moqui is reserved for some one who has no pet hypothesis to sustain, and who shall bring to the task an unprejudiced mind, unfettered by foregone conclusions.

INSANITY IN PARIS.

DR. BRIERRE DE BOISMONT, a physician of Paris, has published a paper "On the influence of the revolution of February, 1848, and the insurrection of June, on developing insanity in Paris." Hardly had the last shots been fired last February, says this gentleman, when I received several victims of that revolution, which, as M. Goudchaux, minister of finances, justly says, has been effected much too fast. These first patients were generally sad, melancholic, and despondent. Their fancies were of a heart-rending description, as they expressed a constant fear of being slaughtered and assassinated. One of these, a man of great learning, and the author of several scientific works, motionless, and with a fixed stare, hardly uttered a word; he was under the impression that he was going to be cast into a sewer, and there stifled. Another was ever exclaiming, "Here they are! they are breaking down the door; they are going to seize me, and shoot me!" Others fancied they heard threatening

voices telling them that they should be guillotined along with their families; or they constantly heard the reports of fire-arms. The patients of this class mostly belonged to the respectable trading community; and many of them had, by industry and perseverance, succeeded in amassing some property, which people now wish to possess without taking any trouble at all. In order to escape the misfortunes they dreaded, some of these patients tried to destroy themselves, and most careful watching was necessary to prevent them from doing so. Several, perceiving that they were closely watched, resolved to die with hunger, and persisted in their purpose with a sort of wild energy. Out of six of these, who all thought themselves great criminals, or ruined or betrayed by their neighbors, two died in spite of the employment of the throat tube. One of these two labored under one of the strongest delusions which I ever observed. He had persuaded himself that his œsophagus had been walled in, and that no food could pass. "How is a man to live (he used to say) when aliments are thrust into his windpipe? you are choking me, and I shall soon be dead." But some time afterwards we received specimens of another description of patients, whose derangement might be attributed to the working of the new political ideas. These were not dejected and sad; on the contrary, they had proud, gay, and enthusiastic looks, and were very loquacious. They were constantly writing memorials, constitutions, &c.; proclaiming themselves great men, the deliverers of the country, and took the rank of generals and members of the government. It has long been maintained that madness often bears the imprint of pride. I declare that I never saw this fact so forcibly borne out as with the patients whom the revolution of February drove mad; particularly those who, imbued with socialist, communist, and regenerating ideas, believed themselves destined to play a conspicuous part in the world. Going through the wards, a few days ago, with one of my professional brethren, we stopped with one of those patients whose disposition was originally of a kind and peaceful description, but who had grown restless and enthusiastic, by being torn from his usual and regular occupations by the excitement of the times, and flung into the street, the clubs, and amidst the working classes. He spoke as follows, after having discussed two points which have been much debated of late;—"I perceive that people are wanting to make it appear that I am mad, but I am proud of the glory which will be shed on my name when posterity will do justice to me, and ask, with painful astonishment, how the author of such useful and philanthropic views could ever have been thought mad! Why should I grieve at this injustice, however; was not Tasso locked up under the same suspicion?"

The terrible insurrection of June has already begun to bear its fruits. I have received more than twenty patients already, and I know that the proportion is equally large in other establishments. Among this number there were several cases of mania; those who were thus maniacal were threatening to kill, shoot, massacre everybody; they were constantly calling out murder, and help, and were, in fact, in a state of indescribable excitement. I have been told that a patient thus affected, and lying in a hospital, for a wound, said, "I want to eat the flesh of a national guard, soaked in the blood of a garde mobile." Although I do not vouch for the truth of this report, I can state that what I heard in my establishment is fully as bad as this savage wish. The

excitement caused by the firing of musketry and artillery even seized upon women. One of them who was brought to this asylum, after having been removed from a barricade where she was holding forth in a furious manner, told me that she had left her husband without knowing what she was about, and that she remembered neither the words nor the acts which were attributed to her. This lady, who has a cultivated mind, is full of talent, and writes excellent verse, seems to me to have been under the influence of a febrile over-excitement, brought on by the agency of terrible events upon a naturally sensitive and nervous disposition. But the greater number of these patients belong to the melancholic form of the disease. Like the February patients of the same category, they talk of death, the guillotine, ruin, pillage, and fire. The terrible scenes which they have had under their eyes have plunged them into a sort of stupor. A lady inmate of the asylum was telling me yesterday—"Before this dreadful revolution I was of a cheerful disposition; but how is it possible not to go mad, when one is in constant apprehension for the life of one's children, for one's property, and where the certainty of being stripped of everything stares one in the face? These fearful events have plunged me into this wretched state. I am a prey to constant frights—the least movement, the least noise, makes me shudder. I endeavor to reason myself into a calmer state, but I feel powerless." It should be noticed, that our civil discords have not been the direct cause of derangement with all the patients. There were some among them who, for some time previously, had shown symptoms of aberration of mind, and in whom the revolution has hastened the appearance of the confirmed disease. Others had had anterior attacks; but about half of them had been in the full enjoyment of their mental faculties, and their madness had no other cause than our fearful political commotions.

The effects of those great shocks do not appear immediately; there are, at first, but a few isolated cases, but the majority take three weeks or a month before the disease becomes manifest. This progressive order is probably owing to the fact that the period of incubation escapes the attention of the family. One of the most distressing consequences of these events is, that many of those persons whose minds have become deranged under the influence of desponding ideas, and who constantly repeat that they are ruined and undone, will really find themselves so when their convalescence has arrived.—*Manchester Examiner*.

We learn from the letter of the correspondent of the Boston Courier, that Von HUMBOLDT, referring to this country and her literature, recently pronounced the following eulogium on our distinguished writer, Mr. Prescott:—"WILLIAM H. PRESCOTT, of Boston, is not only the greatest historian of America, but is the most eminent of the known world. It is with the most profound interest that I read his wonderful productions, which are volumes of precious collections, on whose leaves are indelibly stamped that rich taste of arranging facts which belongs to a superior mind."

The ships *Investigator* and *Enterprise*, comprising the Expedition under Sir John Ross, in search of Sir John Franklin, touched at Disco Island on the 2d of July, and immediately proceeded on their voyage. The crews were all well. Disco Island is on the west coast of Greenland, about 70° N. Lat.

The antiquarian puzzle alluded to in our paper of Sept. 9, promising as it appeared, has been unexpectedly denuded of all interest to the archaeologist, and the bones of the alligator or crocodile exhumed at Eatontown, are left to be picked by the naturalists à discretion. A certain matter-of-fact officer of the U. S. Mint at Philadelphia is the Oedipus on the present occasion, and he thus disposes of the mysterious relic which was announced as being of "Corinthian brass, with Roman inscriptions and Arabic numerals."

"A little handling of the identical thing was sufficient to settle the *pros* and *cons*. The coin, 'about the size of a dollar,' was in reality a Low Dutch dollar; or rather a counterfeit of one, which accounted for its Corinthian composition. On one side was the lion rampant, so horribly heraldic, that we must praise the writer for finding it out; and around it the legend CONFIDENS. DNO. (Domino) NON MOVETVR; very good Latin, and too good theology for the Cæsars; with the date 1648; a star or space being interposed (as they used sometimes to do) between tens and hundreds. And by the way, although the notation was Arabic, the figures were European; a wide distinction, not commonly supposed to exist. On the other side, we have (by supplying some letters from more perfect specimens), Mo. ARG. PRO. CON. BELG., that is, *Moneta Argentæ Provincie Confederationis Belgicæ*; 'Silver Money of the Confederation of Belgic Provinces.'"

AN ANCIENT MS. WORK STOLEN.—We learn from the National Intelligencer that a Manuscript volume, well known to persons from all parts of the United States who have visited Georgetown College for the last thirty years, was taken from the College Library about the 11th or 12th of September. The book is of fine parchment, is about four inches long, three wide, and nearly two thick, in its ordinary modern binding. Many of its pages are beautifully illuminated, others decorated with rubrics and figured letters, and containing prayers and portions of the Scripture in the form of the Roman Breviary. It is about 600 years old.

It is supposed that the book may be offered for sale, or some exhibition be made of it; and if so, those who hear of it will, of course, take means to convey information of its whereabouts to the President of the College.

A month before the battles of the "8th" and "9th," a *Matamoras Gazette* fell into the hands of our troops (then engaged in erecting Fort Brown) that contained a paragraph that caused a great deal of amusement. It read as follows: "There have been forty-three desertions from the barbarians, six of them slaves; and momentarily is expected old Taylor, body and soul."

Recent Publications.

The Metamorphoses of Publius Ovidius Naso; elucidated by an Analysis and Explanation of the Fables, together with English Notes, Historical, Mythological, and Critical, and illustrated by Pictorial Embellishments, with a Clavis. By Nathan Covington Brooks, A.M. Philadelphia: Grigg, Elliott & Co. 8vo. pp. 386. 1848.

THE *Metamorphoses* of Ovid is one of the most attractive books that can be put into the hands of the youthful student of the classics. That Latin can hardly be dull which describes so picturesquely the mythological legends of antiquity, and appeals so strongly to the imagina-

tive faculty, and the love of the marvellous and improbable, which is one of the chief sources of delight to children—aye, and to not a few grave and austere men who are commonly supposed to have long put away childish things. Possessing such elements of enjoyment, the difficulties of interpretation are commonly encountered by the learner with an earnestness and energy stimulated by absorbing interest in the events of the narrative, and increasing anxiety to arrive at the result; the efforts of the teacher are cheerfully seconded by the exertions of the scholar. And when it is remembered that a knowledge of these legends is absolutely necessary for a proper understanding of Greek and Roman literature, and that the *Metamorphoses* is one of the best fountains from which to draw the desired information, no wonder that it is one of the earliest books put into the hands of a boy, and that editors have tasked their skill to the utmost to elucidate what is obscure in the language, and to unfold the poetical drapery thrown around some moral principle or philosophical theory.

But we have no intention of writing a dissertation upon the *Metamorphoses*; and must confine our pen to the matter of fact purpose with which we set out, namely, to say a word or two upon the present edition, which, on several accounts, appears to us admirably calculated to satisfy the requirements both of teacher and scholar. Some may perhaps object to the circumstance of its being an expurgated edition. We are aware there is a great difference of opinion as to the advisability of the proceeding, nor are we sure that in the end, anything is gained on the score of delicacy by suppressing an occasional pruriency; but we are not disposed to be very strenuous on the subject in an edition destined for educational purposes, and we shall have performed our duty on this occasion by stating the circumstance, that objectionable fables and passages have been expunged, but that these omissions do "not break the chain of connexion between the stories, nor mar the narrative of the fables introduced."

In every respect, however, affecting the interpretation of the text, the grammatical construction, and the elucidation of the spirit and poetical beauty of these traditions of the early ages of the world, Mr. Brooks has prepared a valuable edition. The notes, which are placed at the foot of the page, are remarkably copious, and consist not merely of solutions of difficult passages, but are richly stored with illustrative observations and details drawn from collateral sources, and with comparative passages from ancient and modern authors. For the assistance of the beginner the order is placed in the margin in the earlier portions of the book; as he progresses, this auxiliary is curtailed, and confined to the more difficult parts. Each fable is introduced by an analysis and explanation, and followed by questions for examination, the answers to which are left to be gathered from the text. A Clavis placed at the end of the volume, containing all the words with their exact meanings, renders this edition complete within itself; and when we add, in conclusion, that the illustrations are numerous, and drawn and engraved with no inconsiderable degree of taste and skill, and that the printing and binding are in keeping with the whole, the reader will have as clear an idea as our limited space will permit us to convey of this latest pictorial edition of the *Metamorphoses*. It deserves, and there is no doubt it will attain, an extensive circulation.

Webster's School Chorister: a Choice Collection of Music arranged to be sung by one, two, three, and four Voices; with a Complete and Thorough System of Elementary Instruction. Designed for Public Schools, Academies, and Juvenile and Adult Classes. By William C. Webster. New York: Samuel Raynor, 76 Bowery. Oblong 8vo. pp. 144. 1848.

Music has its cheap publications as well as letters; and in both, quality has too often been but a secondary consideration. The "School Chorister" is one of the latest examples of a

class of books containing only commonplace adaptations of threadbare tunes, which have gone the round of the choirs and the small fry of singing schools for the last twenty years. It has no higher pretensions, either with respect to clearness of explanation, quality of selection, and style of arrangement, and is no better calculated to promote the advance of science and taste, than many similar works which are already in the market; and we really are not conscious of any result which would not have been equally well attained if it had never seen the light. It is of far too trivial a character to meet the purpose for which it is designed "for public schools, academies, and select juvenile and adult classes,"—the juvenile might pass through it (the sooner they have done with it the better), but we should hope the other classes would seek for something of a more elevated stamp. If the quality suits them, however, their powers of execution will not be too severely taxed, for the arrangements are simple and easy of execution, with as much variety as is ordinarily encountered in books of this class. We protest, however, with all our energy against the alliance of the famous minuet in Don Giovanni with some trumpery words, as a positive degradation.

The "complete and thorough system of elementary instruction" is more remarkable for its brevity than its completeness; and unfortunately this brevity has not saved us from much that is objectionable, if not absolutely wrong. Shallowness and diffuseness are incompatible with clearness and simplicity; we have only space to remark in illustration of our meaning, that "half note," "quarter note," "eighth note," "sixteenth note," "thirty-second note," and "sixty-fourth note," are useless and ridiculous changes of the established nomenclature, and about as wise as would be the substitution of "first letter," "second letter," &c. for A B C; and that in the section on time the varieties are needlessly complicated instead of being concisely classed under the two distinctive heads of simple and triple, which the veriest child can easily comprehend in a couple of minutes.

Sketches of St. Augustine; with a View of its History and Advantages as a Resort for Invalids. By R. K. Sewall. New York: G. P. Putnam. 12mo. pp. 69.

FLORIDA has of late been growing into favor as a resort for the valetudinarian during the severe winters of the North, and among other places St. Augustine is considered to offer great advantages to those who are compelled to leave home in search of health. This little volume is made up of those extracts from local annals and scraps of local intelligence in which similar books delight; and the advantages of St. Augustine in respect to climate, situation, and internal accommodations, are described in true guide-book style. Its representations are well worth consideration by those who may contemplate a winter residence in the South.

Authentic Memoirs of Prince Napoleon Louis Bonaparte. Providence: Charles Burnett. Pamphlet, pp. 58. 1848.

It does not appear to us that the "American lady of distinction" to whom this pamphlet is mysteriously attributed, enjoyed any greater facilities for information during her residence abroad for many years, than we who have stayed at home; for we have detected nothing of importance in these pages which has not already seen the light. If any one, however, takes sufficient interest in Prince Napoleon Louis to refresh their memories of the events of his life, which have so far consisted of failures, these will here be found in a connected shape: they may perhaps prove a lesson to all fiery youths whose aspirations transcend their abilities.

Hogarth: his Life and Works. New York: J. S. Redfield. Small 4to. paper cover. pp. 72. 1848.

Those whose means will not allow of their purchasing any of the expensive complete edi-

tions of Hogarth's works, and who must therefore content themselves with a mere taste of their quality, will find their cases provided for in this little compilation, which contains the principal incidents and anecdotes connected with his life and works, and is illustrated with thirty-two engravings from his best pictures, chiefly executed by Jackson. These engravings have, we believe, appeared before at different times in the Penny Magazine; and it was a good idea of the publisher to collect them and issue them at a cheap rate in connexion with a Memoir of the artist, and the necessary explanations of the details of the subjects.

Musical Review.

AFTER a long recess, during which vocal and instrumental performers have preserved the most inexpressive silence, the musical season will commence on Monday evening, Oct. 2, with the grand concert of M. Strakosch, assisted by the members *cantante* and the orchestra of the new Italian Opera. As this concert, in the extent and completeness of its arrangements, is something new to New York, a word in respect to the details of its composition is fairly due to Mr. Fry, to whom, as Director of the Italian Opera, the preparations have been intrusted. The orchestra is to consist of eighty members, and the chorus of one hundred and fifty. The principal vocalists will be Truffi, Benedetti, Pico, Northall, Rosi, and Valtellina, and Strakosch and Timm will play a grand duo on themes from *Giuramento*—the whole under the conductorship of Maretzek, whose reputation both as a conductor and composer encourages us to entertain the most sanguine anticipations. We understand an opportunity will be afforded of testing his attainments in both capacities. Strakosch himself will also play several pieces of his own composition. It will be gratifying to ladies who dress to be seen, and whose fascinations have been so often swallowed up in the gloom of the Tabernacle, to know that on this occasion that formless void, in addition to the ordinary light, is to be illuminated by a thousand wax candles; and therefore we may reasonably expect something very brilliant in all departments, where the sense of sight will assist the ear in conveying agreeable emotions to the brain. This has been wisely done. A concert in the dark would be but a mere echo of delight.

But we must not be diverted from the special purpose for which we sat down—to say a few words, critically, respecting M. Strakosch. We have now heard him sufficiently to form an opinion of his merits, and while we gladly reiterate our brief comments under date of July 8th, we at once assign him a high rank among the first class of modern artists. His style is remarkably finished for so young a man; and indeed everything considered, we doubt whether, as a performer, he has had any superior in America. His left hand is remarkable for power, grasp, and facility, and the perfect equality with which he executes his scale passages, and the consummate skill with which he interweaves his arpeggios, has never been equalled by any performer on this side the water. In addition to wonderful execution his playing displays great firmness and character; the mechanical execution is subservient and auxiliary to the thought to be expressed. His touch is of exquisite delicacy, and his *tremolo* inconceivably close and even; and the whole manner and effect of his execution exhibit a mingled grandeur and delicacy which fill the mind while they captivate the ear. Possessing these qualities, it needs little prescience to

foretell that M. Strakosch will soon become one of the public's most favored favorites.

In view of the approaching concert, we would suggest the propriety, for the benefit of those concerned, of settling any little disagreements or difficulties that may arise among the performers before the evening of the concert; of providing that there shall be no disappointment to the public, such as frequently arose from professional pique and jealousy during the last season; and of faithfully giving the entire programme, in the order in which it is set down. Let there be no curtailments or substitutions; audiences have too long been trifled with beyond all bearing, and we hardly think that such tricks can be played again with impunity. In these remarks we have no reference to any former conduct of M. Strakosch, or of Mr. Fry; nor are we aware that these gentlemen ever have offended in this respect. But they have those to deal with who are experienced hands at the game; and the hint may not be superfluous.

Literary Intelligence.

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Publishers' Circular.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

D. APPLETON & Co. announce as in press the following:—Home and its Influence, by Lady Adela Sidney, from the 2d London edition, 1 vol. 12mo.; Sadness and Gladness, a Tale, by the Author of Home and its Influence, 1 vol. 12mo.; The Republic of the United States of America, its Duties to Itself and Relations to other Countries, embracing also a Review of the Late War with Mexico, and those Measures which have characterized the Democracy of the Union, &c.; Gothic Architecture applied to Modern Residences, containing designs for entrances, halls, staircases and parlors, window trimmings and door panelling, chimney breasts and mantels, panelling and groining of ceilings, &c. &c., illustrated with working and perspective drawings by D. H. Arnot, Architect, to be published in parts, royal 8vo. size.—Price 25 cents each. (Part I. nearly ready). Nearly ready: Ellen Middleton, a Tale, by the author of Grantley Manor, 1 vol. 12mo.

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LIST OF BOOKS PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES FROM 23D TO 30TH SEPT.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI Valley: comprising the Results of extensive Original Surveys and Explorations. By E. G. Squier, M.A. and E. H. Davis, M.D. 1 vol. Imperial 4to. (Bartlett & Welford) subscription price \$10.
 BEECHER (EDWARD).—Baptism with Reference to its Import and Modes. By Edward Beecher, D.D. (John Wiley.)
 BURNS AS A POET AND A MAN. By Samuel Tyler, Esq., author of "Baconian Philosophy." 1 vol. 12mo. (Baker & Scribner.)
 ELEMENTARY PRACTICAL BOOK, for Learning to Speak and Write the Spanish Language, from the Method of Dr. J. H. P. Seidenstuecker. By J. Girard, P.L. (Collins & Brother.)
 GORGAS OF PLATO, chiefly according to Stallbaum's Text; with Notes. By Theodore D. Woolsey. New edition, with Additions. (Boston: James Munroe & Co.)
 HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONS, from 1789 to 1848. By T. Redhead. Vol. 1 (Boston: Gould, Kendall & Lincoln).
 IMAGE (THE) OF HIS FATHER: or, One Boy is more Trouble than a Dozen Girls: a Tale. By the Author of "The Greatest Plague of Life." (Philadelphia: Carey & Hart.)
 IRVING (WASHINGTON).—The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent. New Edition. 1 vol. 12mo. cloth (Putnam), \$1 25.
 LECTURES TO YOUNG MEN. By Joseph P. Thompson, Pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle Church (Leavitt, Trow & Co.).
 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE; A Novel. By Miss Austin. With a Biographical Notice of the Author (Boston: Wilkins, Carter & Co.).
 RUBY (THE); A Token of Friendship for 1849. Morocco gilt (Philadelphia: Carey & Hart).
 RUDIMENTARY CHEMISTRY. By Professor Townes. Being Part I of "Weale's Rudimentary Series" (Philadelphia: Carey & Hart).
 SERMONS. By Henry Edward Manning, M.A. New Series, 8vo. (Stanford & Swords), \$1 25.
 TABLES OF INTEREST AND DISCOUNT, at 6 to 7 per cent. By A. Aikens (G. W. Woods).
 WELDRON FAMILY (THE); or, Vicissitudes of Fortune. A Story of Real Life in New England. By Maria . . . (Providence: Welden & Peck; New York: Spalding & Shepard).

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figure leans in a listless attitude against the door post, apparently wondering by what process the lad contrives to turn the tune and manufacture so many modifications of sound with such slender means. He don't enjoy the melody, but wonders at the skill. But the triumph of the picture is the negro standing outside the door, out of sight of the main group, but certainly not out of hearing. He is an amateur, plays himself, and listens naturally, at the same time delightedly. We never saw the faculty of listening so exquisitely portrayed as it is here. Every limb, joint, body, bones, hat, boots, and all, are intent upon the tune. He leans his right shoulder against the barn door, holds his hat respectfully in his hand, and inclines his ear towards the musician; while his eye, looking at nothing, but seeing through the whole affair, melts with delight at the effect of the ravishing sounds. A brown jog and an axe standing near, inform us that he has been to dinner, after chopping all the

morning, filled his jug with 'black strap,' or a mixture of vinegar, water, molasses, and ginger (we forget what it is called), and was about to resume his labor for the afternoon, when he was arrested by the notes of the violin. He has got his 'stent' for the day, but he thinks he can listen a little longer, work all the harder, and get through long before sunset; and so he will, for his heart is glad, and a glad heart insures a quick hand.

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